

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 2, 2010

Dear Republican Colleague:

In the next Congress, we have a rare second chance to demonstrate to the American people that we are listening. With this in mind, I want to endorse my friend and fellow conservative, Cliff Stearns, for Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Job creation must be our number one priority. Cliff started a business from scratch and actually created jobs. As a former small business owner, Cliff understands the struggles small business owners face and how burdensome regulations and high taxes hurt economic growth. This real world experience provides Cliff with a unique perspective as Chairman that no one else brings.

In addition to his small business experience, Cliff served as a Captain in the Air Force where he managed complicated satellite reconnaissance systems. Cliff's time in the Air Force taught him how to manage a complex organization and how to work as part of a larger team toward a common goal. Both traits will be important in leading the Committee.

I also support Cliff because of his consistent conservative voting record. He has a 95% lifetime rating from the American Conservative Union – the highest of anyone seeking this Chairmanship. He also has a 100% pro-life voting record. In addition, budget watchdog groups have constantly honored Cliff for his commitment to fiscal discipline. We need dedicated budget busters as Chairman and Cliff fits the bill.

With 18 years of seniority on the Committee and as a former subcommittee chairman, Cliff has been an active leader on the Committee. He has taken a pro-active approach to addressing the major issues that have come before the Committee.

Republicans need to show the American people that we are listening and every decision we make will closely scrutinized. This is why Cliff Stearns should be Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee. His small business experience, military background and unwavering conservative record make him the most qualified choice to be the next Chairman of the Energy and Commerce

Sincerely,

  
Trent Franks  
United States Representative